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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/903,211	07/11/2001	Yoshiaki Hiratsuka	2500.65689	9972

7590 05/05/2005

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EXAMINER

SEFER, AHMED N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2826

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/903,211

Applicant(s)

HIRATSUKA ET AL.

Examiner

A. Sefer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 and 9-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 9-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/2005.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/18/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 7, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcher et al. ("Whitcher") USPN 6,144,552 in view of Karasaki ("Karasaki") JP 11-167108.

Whitcher discloses (see figs. 1 and 2 and col. 3, lines 41-63) a display panel module comprising a display panel 73 defining a screen on a front surface; a panel-shaped module component 17 superposed on a rear surface of the display panel or opposed to a rear surface of the display panel, the panel-shaped module component excluding a metal frame (as in claim 16); and an electrically insulating frame 15 bezel enclosing the display panel and the panel-shaped module component so as to couple the module component; to the display panel, wherein said electrically insulating bezel includes a flat plate 21 defining a window 22; and a wall 23 extending from a rear surface of the flat plate, said wall being opposed to a peripheral end

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surface of the module component so align the module component with the display panel, but lacks anticipation of exposing the front surface of the display panel.

Karasaki discloses in figs. 1-3 a display panel module comprising a display panel 7 comprising a bezel 1 having a flat plate defining a window 12 for exposing the front surface of the display panel, said flat plate being designed to receive the front surface of the display panel around the window.

Since Whitcher and Karasaki are both from the same field of endeavor, LCD module, Karasaki's teachings would have been recognized in Whitcher's pertinent art. Therefore, in view of Karasaki, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be motivated to modify Whitcher's device by incorporating Karasaki's teachings since that would prevent sudden removal of the LCD module as taught by Karasaki.

As for claim 15, Whitcher discloses (col. 6, lines 9-19) said module component comprising at least a light source (CCFL backlight).

4. Claims 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcher in view of Howell et al. ("Howell") USPN 6,353,531.

Whitcher discloses (see figs. 1 and 2 and col. 3, lines 41-63) a display panel 73 defining a screen on a front surface; a panel-shaped module component 17 superposed on a rear surface of the display panel; and an electrically insulating bezel 15 enclosing the display panel and the panel-shaped module component so as to couple the module component to the display panel, but lacks anticipation of a housing and a display panel module incorporated within the housing.

Howell discloses in figs. 2 and 4 an electronic apparatus comprising a housing 32 and a display panel module 36 incorporated within the housing.

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Since Whitcher and Howell are both from the same field of endeavor, LCD module, Howell's teachings would have been recognized in Whitcher's pertinent art. Therefore, in view of Howell, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be motivated to modify Whitcher's device by incorporating Howell's teachings since that would provide increased protection to critical components as taught by Howell.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-6 and 9-14 are allowed.

NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Sefer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1921

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANS

May 1, 2005